

# Daniel 4:22

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.

## Analysis

Daniel delivers the interpretation's climax with directness and clarity: 'It is thou, O king, that art grown and become strong: for thy greatness is grown, and reacheth unto heaven, and thy dominion to the end of the earth.' The identification is unambiguous—Nebuchadnezzar is the tree. Daniel acknowledges the king's genuine greatness ('grown and become strong') without flattery or exaggeration. This greatness is real; the problem lies in its interpretation and the attitude it produced. The statement 'thy greatness is grown' parallels the tree's growth, while 'reacheth unto heaven' echoes the tree's height—both implying overreach, aspiring to divine status. The phrase 'thy dominion to the end of the earth' confirms worldwide empire, fulfilling the earlier vision (chapter 2) where Nebuchadnezzar was the 'head of gold.' This interpretation prepares for the next verse's judgment announcement, making clear that humbling comes precisely because of the pride accompanying legitimate achievement.

## Historical Context

Nebuchadnezzar's historical greatness is undeniable. His military campaigns created the last great Mesopotamian empire; his building projects made Babylon ancient world's wonder; his administrative reforms organized vast territories; his reign represented Neo-Babylonian peak. Archaeological discoveries—the Ishtar Gate, palace ruins, brick inscriptions—confirm his boasts' historical basis. Yet these achievements fed hubris. Royal inscriptions claim he made Babylon's 'name

famous to the ends of the earth' and completed works 'no previous king accomplished.' This taking personal credit without acknowledging divine grant precipitated judgment. The historical parallel to modern Western civilization is striking: unprecedented technological, economic, and cultural achievements coexisting with spiritual pride rejecting God's sovereignty.

## Related Passages

**Colossians 1:16** – All things created through Christ

## **Genesis 1:1 – Creation of heavens and earth**

## Study Questions

1. How can we acknowledge genuine human achievement without feeding the pride that claims independent credit?
2. Why does God judge the prideful attitude toward success rather than the success itself?
3. In what ways does our culture's celebration of 'self-made' success mirror Nebuchadnezzar's pride?

## Interlinear Text

וְרֹבּוֹתָךְ	וְתַקְפָּתְךְ	רַבָּת	דִּין	מֶלֶךְ אָתָּה	הָאָתָּה
<b>It is thou</b>	H1932	<b>O king</b>	H1768	<b>is grown</b>	<b>and become strong</b>
H607		H4430		H7236	H8631

  

רַבָּת	לְשָׁמְיָא	וּמְטוּת	וְשָׁלַטְתָּךְ	לְסַעַךְ	אֶרְזָאָן
<b>is grown</b>	<b>and reacheth</b>	<b>unto heaven</b>	<b>and thy dominion</b>	<b>to the end</b>	<b>of the earth</b>
H7236	H4291	H8065	H7985	H5491	H772

## Additional Cross-References

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**2 Samuel 12:7** (Kingdom): And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;

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